

WASHINGTON, D.C. , Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced that the U.S. House of Representatives has passed legislation to establish the Upper Housatonic Valley in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Olver is cosponsoring the legislation to establish the Upper Housatonic Valley in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

"This legislation will preserve a region rich with historical landmarks, while also boosting tourism and stimulating economic development in the region," Olver said.

"Through this locally-led initiative, the region will be able to make real progress in protecting the Upper Housatonic Valley and its unique cultural and geographical resources."

Johnson and Olver introduced H.R. 938, The Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area Act of 2005.

The Upper Housatonic Valley is a unique cultural and geographical region that encompasses 29 towns in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

The legislation awaits Senate action on the companion bill, S. 429, introduced by U.S. Sens. Joe Lieberman and Christopher Dodd.

"With today's House passage and last month's Senate hearing, I'm optimistic that we'll receive the designations we need to protect this area," Olver said.

Jones said the area has already organized heritage activities including an Iron Heritage Trail brochure, a heritage tour, and a heritage festival.

###